

CHARLESTON

MERCURY

EXTRA:

Passed unanimously at 115 o'clock, P.M. December 20th, 1860.

AN ORDINANCE

To dissolve the Union between the State of South Carolina and other States united with her under the compact entitled "The Constitution of the United States of America."

We, the People of the State of South Carolina, in Convention assembled, do declare and ordain, and it is hereby declared and ordained,

That the Ordinance adopted by us in Convention, on the twenty-third day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight, whereby the Constitution of the United States of America was ratified, and also, all Acts and parts of Acts of the General Assembly of this State, ratifying amendments of the said Constitution, are hereby repealed; and that the union now subsisting between South Carolina and other States, under the name of "The United States of America," is hereby dissolved.

THE

UNION IS DISSOLVED!

South Carolinians greeted secession with jubilation. Charleston, one observer noted, "... was wild with excitement . . . church bells mingling with salvos of artillery. . . . Old men ran shouting down the street. . . . The whole heart of the people had spoken." But a lonely Unionist said sourly: "South Carolina is too small for a republic and too big for a lunatic asylum."

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The Charleston Mercury printed a special one-page edition on Dec. 20, 1860, to announce South Carolina's secession. On that day a special state convention had resolved that "the union now subsisting between South Carolina and other States under the name of the United States of America is hereby dissolved." (The Bettmann Archive)

civil War